

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

[1] (Previously Presented)

A cooker comprising:

- a heating chamber having an opening at a front face thereof, the heating chamber in which foods are placed;
- a door provided in the opening of the heating chamber;
- an external circulation path provided outside the heating chamber;
- a suction port that sucks in gas inside the heating chamber;
- a steam generating unit that generates steam by heating water, and releases the generated steam into the external circulation path;
- a blower provided in the external circulation path, the blower that makes the gas sucked in through the suction port return to the heating chamber by way of the steam generating unit;
- a heater that heats the steam generated by the steam generating unit so as to turn the steam into superheated steam;
- a blowhole through which the superheated steam heated by the heater blows out into the heating chamber;
- an exhaust port provided in the external circulation path, the exhaust port through which the gas sucked in through the suction port is exhausted to an outside;
- a damper that opens and closes the exhaust port; and

a control unit that controls the damper so as to open/close the exhaust port in accordance with a movement of the door,
wherein the suction port is provided in an innermost side wall of the heating chamber.

[2](Previously Presented) The cooker of claim 1,
wherein the blower is provided in an outer surface of the innermost side wall of the heating chamber and in a vicinity of the suction port, and
the steam generating unit is disposed adjacently to the outer surface of the innermost side wall of the heating chamber.

[3](Currently Amended) The cooker of claim 1-~~or~~ 2,
wherein the damper selectively closes the external circulation path and the exhaust port.

[4](Previously Presented) The cooker of claim 3,
wherein the damper closes the exhaust port during cooking, and opens the exhaust port when the door of the heating chamber is opened.

[5](Previously Presented) The cooker of claim 4,
wherein, after the damper opens the exhaust port, the control unit continues to operate the blower until a predetermined time period elapses after a sign that the door is being opened is detected.

[6](Previously Presented) The cooker of claim 4,
wherein, after the damper opens the exhaust port, the control unit continues to operate the
blower until it is determined that the door is fully opened.

[7](Previously Presented) The cooker of claim 4,
wherein, after the damper opens the exhaust port, the control unit continues to operate the
blower until a predetermined time period elapses after it is determined that the door is
fully opened.

[8](New) The cooker of claim 2,
wherein the damper selectively closes the external circulation path and the exhaust port.